

REMARKS

Information Disclosure Statement

The Information Disclosure Statement Form PTO-1449 included with the Examiner's Office Action and showing a filing date of January 24, 2005 and the inventor name of Qishou Xu, et al. and with a received stamp showing the date August 11, 2006 was accidentally filed under the present application number by the Ladas & Parry firm and was intended for Application No. 10/522,110. That Information Disclosure Statement is thus of no consequence in this file. The Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 14, 2005 with the present application and which the Examiner acknowledged on June 6, 2006 was correct.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Riu (5,988,015).

Claim 1 has been further amended to better point out the distinguishing features with respect to Riu.

In particular, the specific shape of the annular coupling portion is now claimed integrally including a first, inner tubular wall, a second outer tubular wall and an end wall, these walls defining an annular cavity with an open end on the side of the internal annular flange of the hub.

The claim has been further amended to read that the intermediate tubular portion of the pulley extends coaxially inside the second tubular wall, that the

inner annular flange of the pulley extends adjacent to the end wall cavity and that the peripheral annular edge of the coupling flange is located at the open end of the cavity.

Riu does not disclose this structure, but rather a two-part hub (see parts 11 and 31), none of which defines per se an annular cavity, and a coupling flange (26) sandwiched between the two parts. Furthermore, neither of the two parts includes an inner tubular wall and an outer tubular wall connected by an end wall.

Finally, Riu does not disclose a peripheral annular edge (25) of the coupling flange (26) which is located at an open end of the annular cavity.

Therefore, amended claim 1 is new over the cited prior art.

The claimed structure brings about a substantial simplification of the assembly. In particular, only two parts (namely, the hub and the coupling flange) are necessary to support and drive the pulley and the inertia ring.

In comparison, the arrangement of Riu requires three parts (two hub parts 11, 31 and flange 26). Not only are manufacturing costs reduced because of the reduced number of parts, but also the assembly method is simplified and less costly.

Nothing in the cited prior art suggests to modify the arrangement of Riu so as to reduce the number of parts and simplify the assembly method.

Therefore, claim 1 as amended is deemed to be non-obvious over the cited prior art.

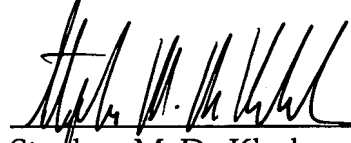
Applicant, accordingly, respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over Riu. Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Stephen M. De Klerk at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Any necessary extension of time for response not already requested is hereby requested. Please charge any corresponding fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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